

PROCLAMATION

6
4-8-03

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, Jews were the primary victims -- six million were murdered -- and Roma, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons, and millions of others, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments and to rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom and a just society; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, May 4, 2003, including the National Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 29; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will sponsor a civic ceremony for the sixteenth consecutive year commemorating the Days of Remembrance, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, at noon on Monday, April 28, in Market Square; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the citizens of Alexandria to join in remembering the victims by attending the civic ceremony of the Holocaust and honoring its survivors by attending this ceremony;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, May 4, 2003, as:

"DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE"

in Alexandria, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators; and do further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, should strive to overcome discrimination, intolerance and indifference through education, vigilance, and remembrance, and do hereby encourage the citizens of Alexandria to attend the civic ceremony in Market Square at noon on Monday, April 28, 2003.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of April 2003.

KERRY J. DONLEY

MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk